

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates state and federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

NCTC COMMISSIONERS

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Vice-Mayor, Nevada City

Drew Bedwell
Nevada County District III Supervisor

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Chet Krage
Member-at-Large

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Josh Susman, Chairman
Vice-Mayor, Town of Truckee

Robin Sutherland
Nevada County District IV Supervisor

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101 Providence Mine Road, Suite 102
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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 14

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TWO PUBLIC WORKSHOPS PLANNED



Transit Transfer Point at Church and Neal Streets

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 12th

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is inviting interested members of the community to a public workshop on **February 12th** at the **Grass Valley City Hall, Hullender Community Room, 125 E. Main Street, between the hours of 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.** They will present an overview of the current status of transit services in western Nevada County and provide an opportunity for comment on the recommendations contained in the *Draft Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan*.

In January 2002 the NCTC contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to prepare the eastern and western Nevada County Transit Development Plan (TDP) Updates for FY 2002-2007. These planning documents take an in-depth look at the transit systems currently in place. LSC completed the draft reports for both regions that analyze existing operating characteristics of the transit system, the need for capital replacements, and the funding sources available over the next five years.

The key issue identified in the eastern and western transit systems are substantial funding deficits over the plan period. We are seeking input from the public on what steps should be taken to ensure sustainable services in the future. The public is invited to review recommendations made in the draft five-year plan, as well as recent findings regarding Gold Country Telecare services and rural Stage routes. (continued on page 3)



Brunswick Road / Loma Rica Drive intersection to be discussed.

BRUNSWICK WORKSHOP PLANNED BEFORE FEBRUARY 19th NCTC EVENING MEETING

A public workshop will be held to present data from a corridor study conducted on Brunswick Road from Sutton Way to Hwy. 174 **February 19th** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **at the Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City.** The Nevada County Department of Transportation and the Nevada County Transportation Commission will be on hand with graphics and charts to summarize the study and answer questions. It is agreed certain improvements will need to be made to existing intersections before the Year 2020 to accommodate projected traffic volumes in the corridor.

Interim improvements at the Loma Rica intersection of Brunswick Road will allow an adequate level of service for approximately 10 years. After that, traffic signalization will be needed to maintain an acceptable level of service. Due to steep grades north of the intersection, signalization at the current location of the intersection is inadvisable during winter months for safety reasons. Included in the workshop will be three alternatives proposed for the Brunswick/Loma Rica Road intersection. They are: 1) Loma Rica Drive connection to Idaho Maryland Road. 2) Loma Rica Drive connection to Greenhorn Road. 3) Loma Rica Drive realignment to connect southerly with Brunswick.

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ROUNDAOBOUTS IN OUR FUTURE



Truckee Roundabout along Donner Pass Road, near downtown Truckee. I-80 can be seen in the top right corner.



Grass Valley's first roundabout located at Sierra College Drive.

NEVADA COUNTY'S TWO ROUNDAOBOUTS

At one time the word "roundabout" was an unfamiliar term in the American vocabulary, but it has become a topic you read about in the newspaper and you possibly have encountered as you drive the streets of your own town. Nevada County currently has two roundabouts, with several more in the planning stages. Shown at left is Nevada County's first roundabout, constructed along Donner Pass Road near downtown Truckee, which opened to traffic in December 1998. Our second roundabout (shown above) is located at Sierra College Drive/Robert Ross Way/Litton Loop in Grass Valley and became operational in August 1999.

SR 89 / I-80 DUAL ROUNDAOBOUT APPROVED



The Town of Truckee and NCTC have come to a cooperative agreement with Caltrans that the proposed traffic signals at the I-80/SR 89 interchange be replaced with plans to construct a dual roundabout. The design was developed by a team that included Caltrans, the Town of Truckee, URS Engineering, Ourston Roundabout Engineering, and LSC Transportation Consultants. Factors considered in the design process included: Traffic volumes, proportions of visitors and first-time drivers, level of service and traffic operations, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, snow removal, and impact on emergency vehicle response. They compared information from existing roundabouts in similar mountain resort communities.

The project team was charged with creating a design that will handle traffic growth for the next 20 years. Not all of the features in the graphic will be constructed. For example, initially the circulating roadway will be wide enough for two lanes of traffic but the design will allow the road to be widened to three lanes when necessary.

PROPOSED ROUNDAOBOUT AT IDAHO MARYLAND / E. MAIN STREET



The intersection of Idaho Maryland Road and East Main Street at the SR 20/49 westbound ramps currently suffers from poor levels of service (LOS) during the p.m. peak hour time period (LOS E overall, with LOS F on the westbound and southbound approaches). A traffic signal is not acceptable to Caltrans due to the potential ramifications to freeway operations if large platoons of traffic are sent to the onramp and traffic weave area of SR 20/49.

The graphic above depicts a modern roundabout that would adequately handle traffic conditions at this intersection. Before obtaining final approval for this roundabout, several issues must be addressed including: Access for businesses near the roundabout, additional right-of-way needed, and the ability to move traffic through the roundabout.

NCTC and the City of Grass Valley are working with Ourston Roundabout Engineering and PRISM Engineering to complete the design of this project.

Upcoming NCTC Meetings

The next two meetings of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., in the Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA; and
Wednesday, MARCH 19, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA.

TWO NEW NCTC COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Sutherland



Commissioner Bedwell

Nevada County's newly elected supervisors Robin Sutherland (District IV) and Drew Bedwell (District III) will represent the County's interests in 2003 on the Nevada County Transportation Commission. They replace Commissioners Elizabeth Martin and Peter Van Zant on the NCTC. Mr. Van Zant will serve as the county alternate on the NCTC.

Robin Sutherland has worked professionally in the right-of-way field since 1988 and is a member of the International Right of Way Association. She expressed her desire as a Commissioner to see that we properly plan right-of-way corridors to include pedestrian facilities, utilities, and future projects. Ms. Sutherland is also interested in serving the needs of disabled persons in our community and hopes they will express their concerns to her.

Drew Bedwell started his career as a Mechanical Engineer and Manager of Manufacturing in Instrumentation and Control and later in the Nuclear Division, working primarily at General Electric. He returned to graduate school in 1988 and eventually taught science in junior and senior high schools in Santa Clara County to severely troubled children. He mentioned a continued interest in helping the children of our county and also gaining more information on how our county's public transportation system operates. Mr. Bedwell has been married 34 years to Ruth and has two married daughters, Wendy and Heather.

2003 CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN



Chairman Susman



Vice-Chairman Stevens

At the January 15, 2003 NCTC meeting, Commissioners selected Josh Susman to serve as Chairman and Linda Stevens to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2003.

Josh Susman is Vice-Mayor of the Town of Truckee, and is in his second term as a Town Council member. He was appointed to the NCTC in July 2001 and served as Vice-Chairman in 2002. Josh says he is proud to be part of the growing interaction and collaboration between the eastern and western portions of the county. He stated, "Western county or eastern county, we are all Nevada County residents." Mr. Susman is a 21-year resident of Truckee, where he lives with his wife Jan and their two sons David and Jonathan. He currently works in the field of financial services and enjoys horses, western history, scuba diving, water and snow skiing.

Linda Stevens was appointed to the Grass Valley City Council in 1993, was elected in 1996, and served as Mayor of Grass Valley in 2002. She has served on the Transportation Commission since 1997 and feels the experience has been educational, allowing her to understand and address the transportation needs and concerns of Nevada County. "Grass Valley is where I live, but Nevada County is also my home and I want to make it the best place to live for all of the residents." Ms. Stevens has owned her own business as a barber for 32 years and has lived in Nevada County for 20 years. She enjoys hearing the concerns of the community first hand, while they are in the barber chair.

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BRUNSWICK WORKSHOPS PLANNED – Continued from page 1



Gold Country Stage Bus and Trolley with Passengers

In late February a public workshop will be held in Truckee to provide eastern county residents an opportunity to comment on recommendations in the draft eastern TDP. LSC will present the draft, including public comments, to the Truckee Town Council in March.

After receiving comments at the public workshops, LSC Transportation Consultants will address comments in the revised drafts of the *Eastern and Western Nevada County Transit Development Plan FY 2002-2007*, which will then be presented to the NCTC for comment at their June 18th meeting.

The final eastern and western transit development plans will then be brought before the NCTC in July 2003 for final adoption.



Brunswick Road at Idaho/Maryland Road Intersection

Pros and cons of the three proposals at Loma Rica Drive were included as an addendum to the Brunswick Corridor Study. You can view the *Final Report: Corridor Study for Brunswick Road From SR 20 to SR 174* at: <ftp://ftp.enoch.com/uploads/nctc/BrunswickCorridorStudy/FinalReport.pdf>

Highlights of the study include: Changes in traffic volumes along Brunswick with the Dorsey Drive interchange installation; Dorsey Drive extension from Sutton Way, crossing Brunswick, and continuing to Idaho Maryland; a new road (Loma Rica Bypass) connecting Idaho Maryland Road with existing Loma Rica Business Park; a new road (Greenhorn Bypass) connecting Greenhorn with Loma Rica Business Park.

After this public workshop, staff will report back to the Commission to receive direction on how plans for the corridor should proceed.